

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 /073 W
-----101906Z 110450 /45

P R 101744Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3273
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT
SUBJ: MORO ENDS LOCKHEED DEBATE WITH POLITICAL WARNING TO
OTHER PARTIES

1. SUMMARY. AT THIS WRITING, RESULTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
VOTE ON THE FATE OF EX-MINISTERS GUI AND TANASSI ARE
EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE EVENING OF MARCH 10.
ON MARCH 9, THE FINAL DAY OF DEBATE, DC PRESIDENT
ALDO MORO AND PSDI PRESIDENT GIUSEPPE SARAGAT DEFENDED
THEIR ACCUSED PARTY COLLEAGUES IN MAJOR SPEECHES.
SARAGAT CONDUCTED A MEASURED AND DETAILED DEFENSE OF
TANASSI WHICH CARRIED WITH IT THE HIGH PRESTIGE ENJOYED
BY AN EX-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. MORO'S LENGTHY
DEFENSE OF THE INNOCENCE OF BOTH BUI (HIS CLOSE FRIEND
AND FACTIONAL COLLEAGUE) AND TANASSI WENT FURTHER BY
DEFINING THE ISSUE IN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY FORCEFUL
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TERMS AS THE INTEGRITY OF THE DC ITSELF. HE THEREFORE
SERVED A WARNING THAT AN ANTI-DC VOTE WILL JEOPARDIZE
FURTHER POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH THE LEFT PARTIES
AND POSSIBLY LEAD TO EARLY ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. MORO DEFENDED THE DC'S POLITICAL RECORD OVER THE
LAST 30 YEARS, NOTWITHSTANDING CERTAIN ERRORS, AS

HAVING PRESERVED ITALIAN DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES. HE SAID THE PARTY IS NOW CIRCLING ITS WAGONS NOT OUT OF FEAR OF CONFRONTING THE TRUTH BUT BECAUSE NOW IS A TIME THAT REQUIRES A FIRM "YES OR NO" TO THE ACCUSATIONS. HE THEN CONTINUED TO THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF HIS SPEECH AS FOLLOWS:

" THAT WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT ABOVE ALL IS THE BRANDING OF OUR ENTIRE EXPERIENCE WITH A MARK OF INFAMY. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY THERE ARE THAT ARE FOLLOWING SUCH A POLITICAL DESIGN, BUT I MUST FRANKLY SAY THAT IT REPRESENTS A PROSPECT CONTRARY TO A LINE OF DEMOCRATIC COLLABORATION. TO WHOMEVER WANTS TO HOLD A MORAL AND POLITICAL TRIAL, TO BE CELEBRATED IN THE STREETS AS IT HAS BEEN CYNICALLY SAID, WE RESPOND WITH THE FIRMIEST REACTION AND WITH AN APPEAL TO PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH HAS NOT BRANDED US WITH THE HISTORICAL HUILT, JUST AS OUR ELECTORAL FORCE HAS NOT DIMINISHED. WE WON'T ACCEPT BEING CONSIDERED CORRUPT BECAUSE THAT IS NOT TRUE."

3. MORO'S REMARKS DOMINATED SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL COMMENTARY. HIS SPEECH HAS BEEN WIDELY INTERPRETED AS A CHALLENGE THROWN OUT TO THE DC'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS. OBVIOUSLY APPROPRIATING TO HIMSELF THE ROLE OF SUPREME PARTY LEADER, MORO PROJECTED THE IMAGE OF A STRONG, UNITED DC THAT IS READY TO CONFRONT THE OTHER POLITICAL FORCES ON THE PLANE OF CIVIL POLITICAL DEBATE BUT ALSO NOT AFRAID TO MATCH STRENGTH WITH ITS OPPONENTS IN EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

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SHOULD THE RULES OF THE POLITICAL GAME BE VIOLATED.

4. REACTION FROM THE OTHER POLITICAL FORCES WAS ABUNDANT, WITH COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS MAKING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PRONOUNCEMENTS. IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PCI SECRETARIAT, DEPUTY NATTA DENOUNCED THE DC'S PRETENSION OF ASCRIBING A DOMINANT POSITION TO ITSELF, IGNORING THE "PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCE IN THE PARLIAMENT AND COUNTRY," JUST WHEN THE "NATIONAL SITUATION REQUIRES THE SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND EFFECTIVE SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY." THE SOCIALISTS WERE LESS MEASURED, WITH PSI SECRETARY CRAXI IMMEDIATELY BRANDING THE DISCOURSE AS "A DANGEROUS SPEECH WHICH DIDN'T HELP THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND WHICH DELIBERATELY INCREASED THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE POLITICAL FORCES." A MARCH 10 EDITORIAL IN THE PSI NEWSPAPER AVANTI WENT EVEN FURTHER, SAYING " THE AFFIRMATION THAT THE DC

DOESN'T INTEND TO RENOUNCE ITS HEGEMONY AND PROCLAIMS
THE INACCEPTABILITY OF CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE GLOBAL
PROPOSALS JUST IN A MOMENT IN WHICH MORO SPEAKS OF
A SITUATION IN WHICH NOT ONLY THE SOCIAL FABRIC IS
LACERATED BUT IN WHICH ALSO THE INSTITUTIONS
ARE IN DISEQUILIBRIUM, UNCOORDINATED AND OFTEN
IMPOTENT, MAKES US FEEL THE CHILL OF A COLD WIND
OF THE CHILEAN TYPE."

5. COMMENT: ONE NEWSPAPER SAID THAT THE ONLY TWO
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS NOT TO APPLAUD MORO'S SPEECH
WERE PM ANDREOTTI AND INQUIRY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
MARTINAZZOLI. IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT MORO'S
CHALLENGE TO THE LEFT PARTIES WILL MAKE THE EXISTENCE
OF ANDREOTTI'S MINORITY GOVERNMENT, BASED ON A
MINIMUM OF COOPERATION BY THE COMMUNISTS AND
SOCIALISTS, MORE DIFFICULT. IN ADDITION, IT IS CLEAR
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THAT MORO FORCEFULLY REASSERTED HIS CLAIM TO BE THE
PRE-EMINENT DC LEADER. AS PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTS HAVE
NOTED, THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE LOCKHEED QUESTION
WAS RATHER ROUTINE AND UNEVENTFUL. ONLY THE FAR LEFT AND THE
RADICALS SEEMED PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH TRYING THE DC'S
POLITICAL PAST. THUS, IT MIGHT BE SAID THAT MORO'S
SPEECH WENT BEYOND THE LIMITS DICTATED BY THE IMMEDIATE
OBJECTIVE SITUATION. IF MORO EXCEEDED THOSE LIMITS, HE DID SO
INTENTIONALLY, PROBABLY TO SERVE A POLITICAL WARNING
TO ALL THAT AN ANTI-DC VOTE WILL EXACERBATE FUTURE POLITICAL
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DC AND THE LEFT PARTIES. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, VOTING, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME03963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770083-0138
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770373/aaaacmek.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ff83dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3149506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORO ENDS LOCKHEED DEBATE WITH POLITICAL WARNING TO OTHER PARTIES
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, LOCKHEED, (MORO, ALDO), (SARAGAT, GIUSEPPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ff83dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009